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RAPHAEL
BAD MOON RISING
TM

"THE CATCH"

CONTINUED FROM THE PAGES OF *TALES OF THE TMNT #7*...

THE STORY THUS FAR...

RAPHAEL, SHADOW, LULU AND THE RESURRECTED SLOANE CHECK OUT THE SCENE OF LILITH'S DISAPPEARANCE – THE WEREWOLF PACK'S SKYSCRAPER DEN IN NOCTURNA CITY. THE CLUES PROVE DISTURBING BUT SPARSE, WHEN SUDDENLY...

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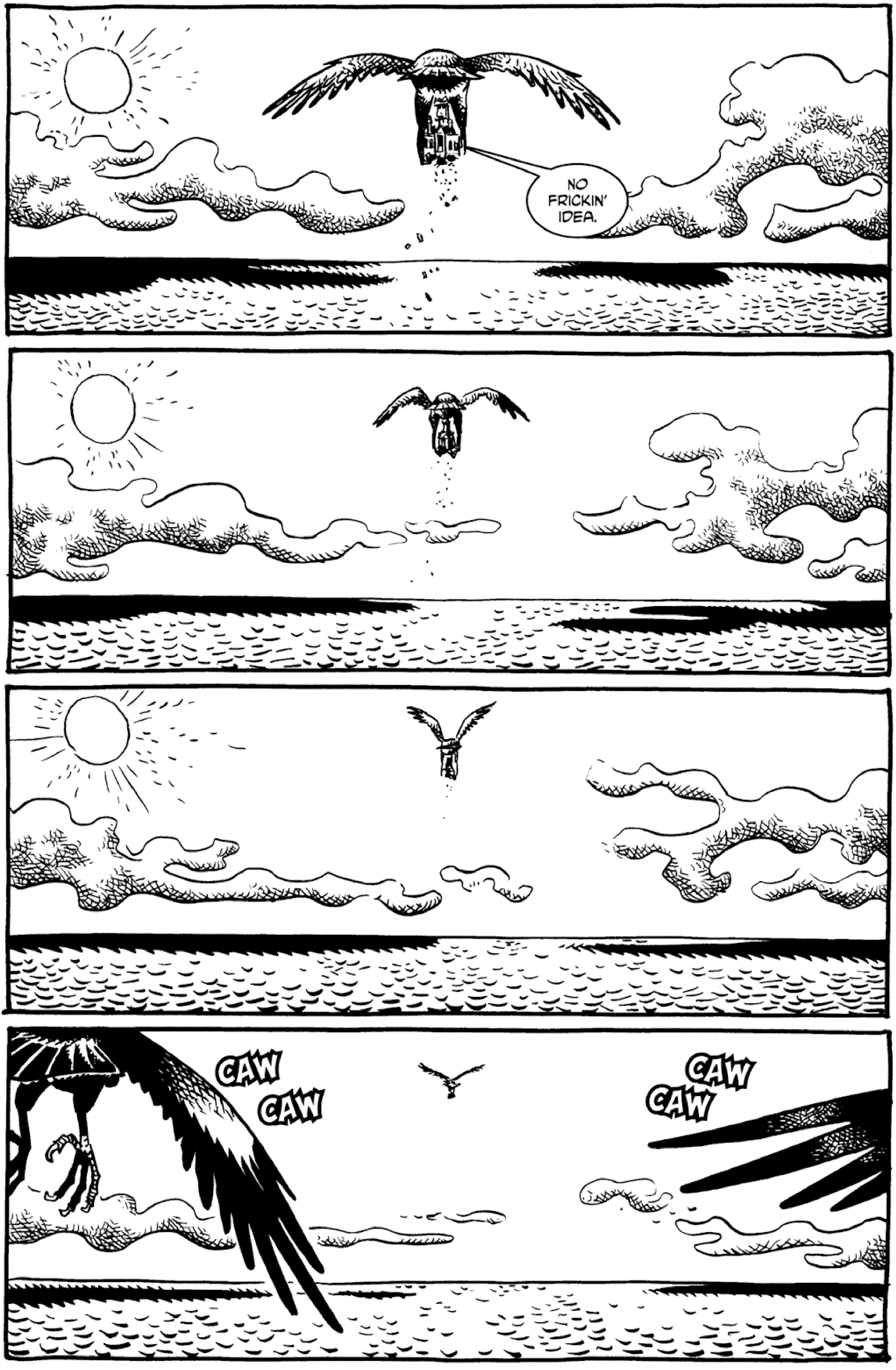
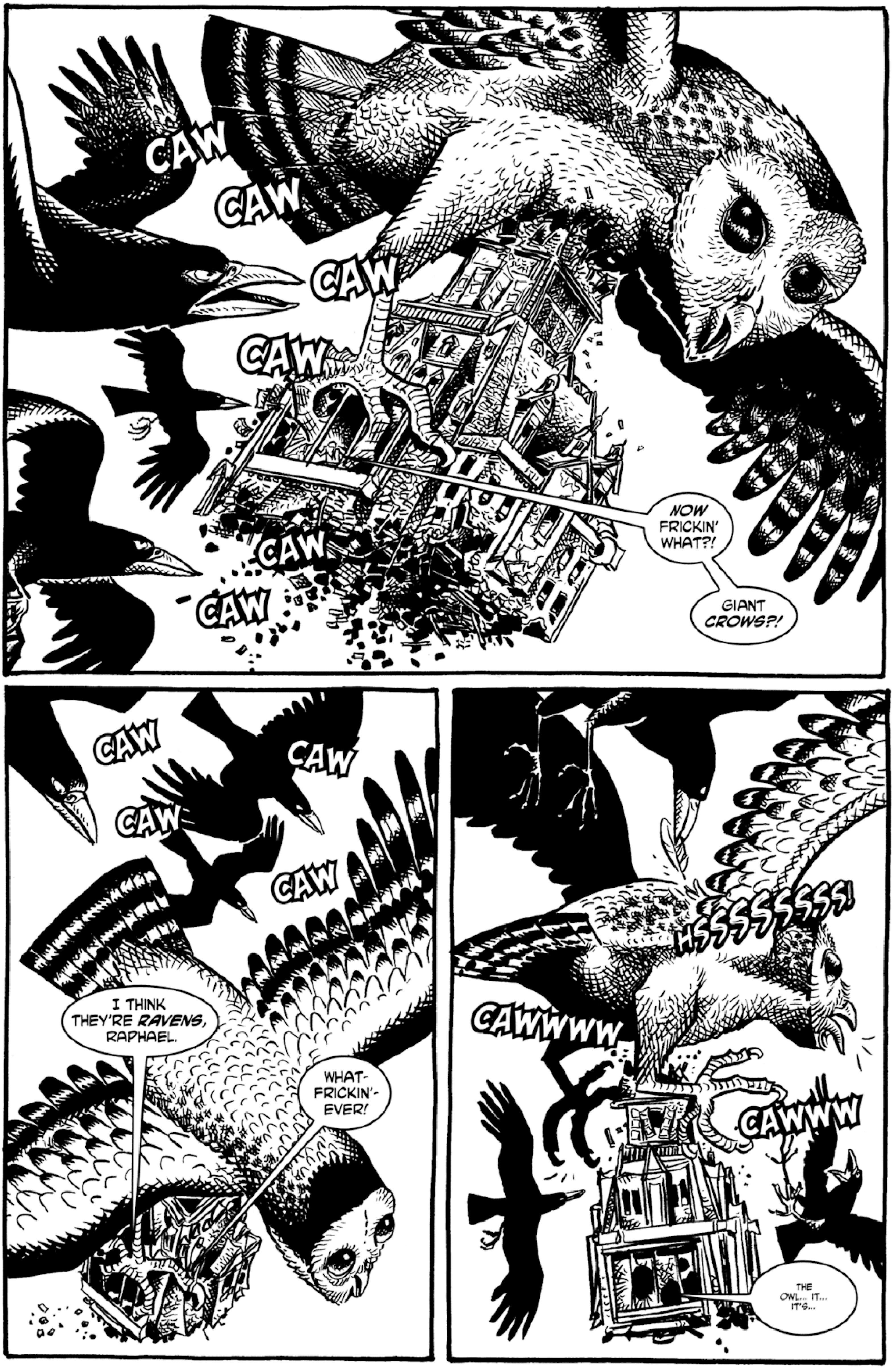
GRRRR...
THIS IS GOING FROM *BAD* TO *WORSE.*
I MEAN, YOU GOT A SERIOUS *WILDLIFE* PROBLEM AROUND HERE, KID.
BUT BIRDS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR FRIENDS, *RAPHAEL,* JUST LIKE BATS AND OTHER ANIMALS. EVEN GIANT ONES.
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY - YOU GREW UP WITH THIS KINDA WEIRD PARANORMAL STUFF.
ME, I HATE THE *SUPERNATURAL* ALMOST AS MUCH AS I HATE...

...FLYING.
OH.
SO, UM, WHERE DO YOU THINK IT'S TAKING US?
AND, LIKE, WHY?


NO FRICKIN' IDEA.
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW


CAW
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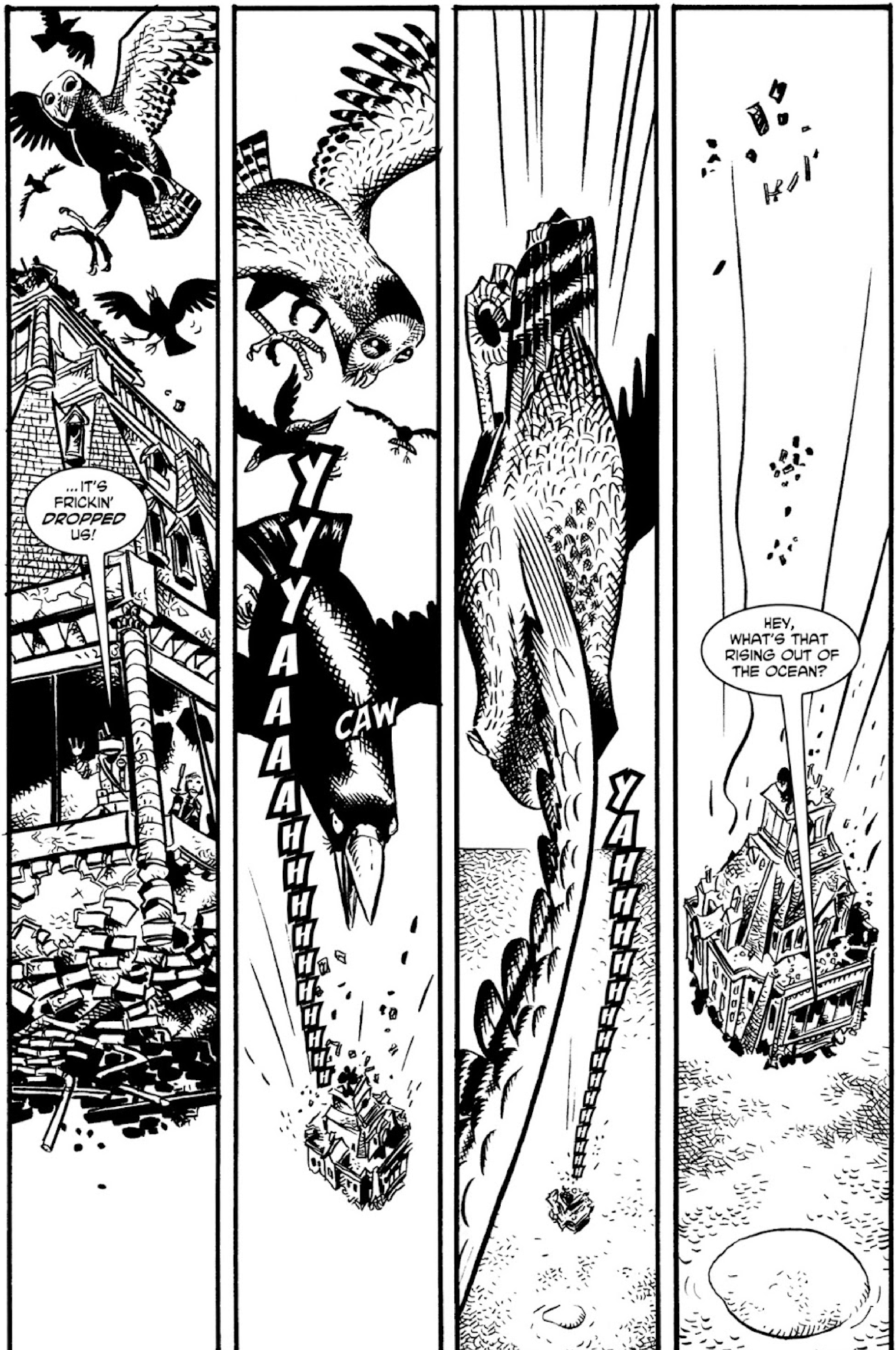
NOW FRICKIN' WHAT?!
GIANT CROWS?!
CAW
CAW
CAW
CAW
I THINK THEY'RE *RAVENS*, RAPHAEL.
WHAT-FRICKIN'-EVER!
HSSSSSSSS!
CAWWWWW
CAWWW
THE OWL... IT... IT'S...



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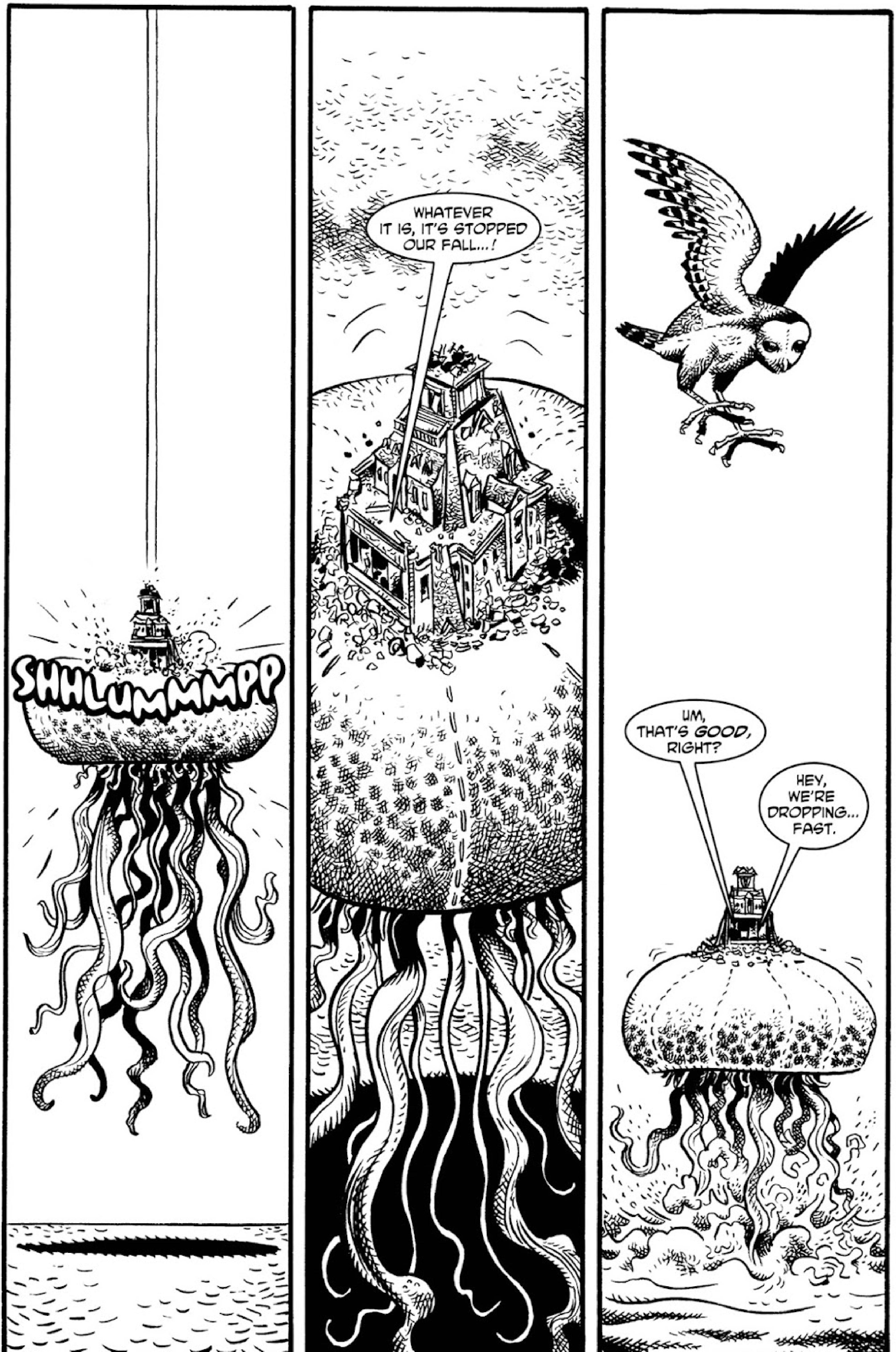

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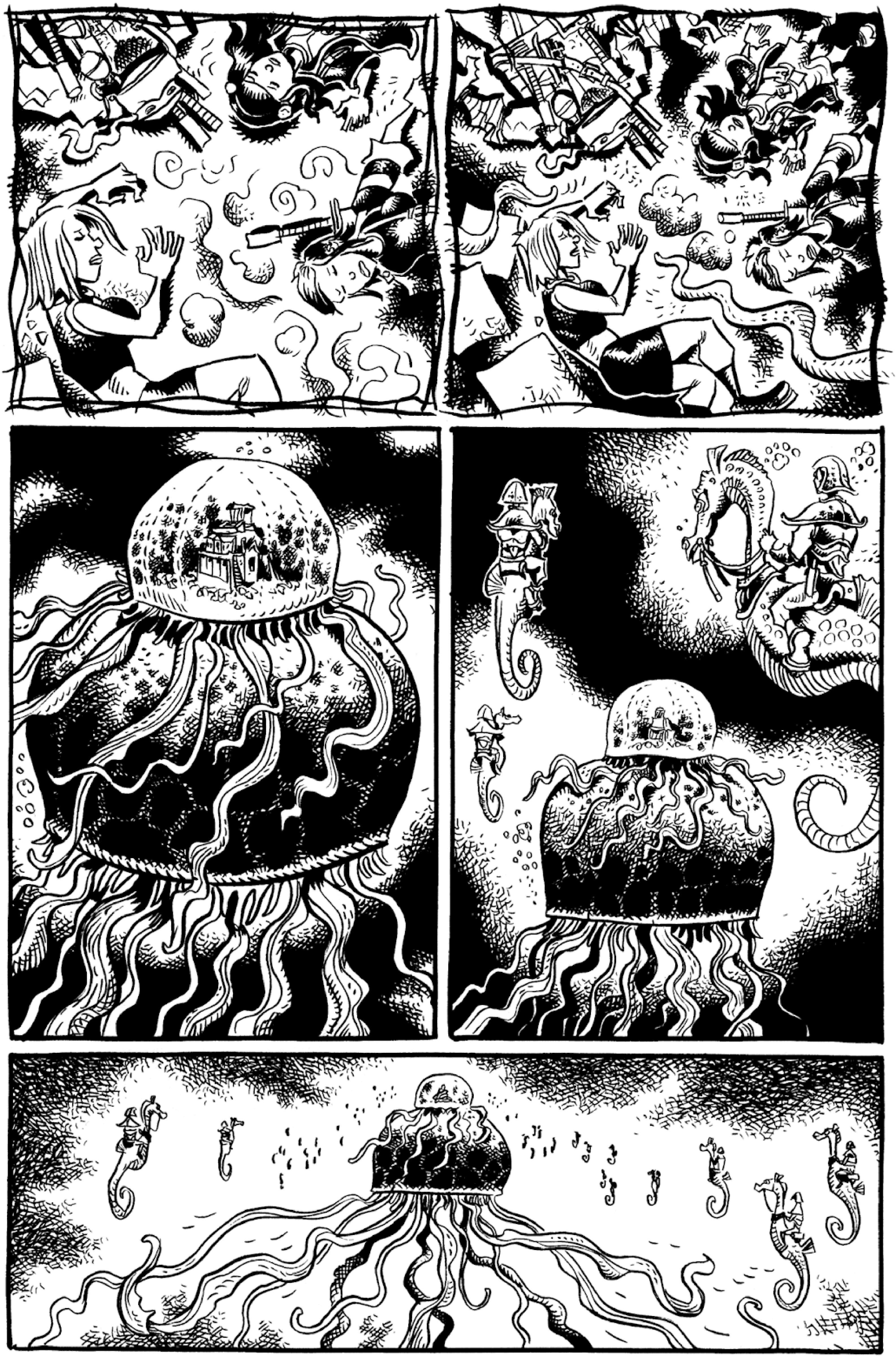
WE'VE STOPPED.
WE'RE SHAKING.
ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE LIKE *JIGGLING*. LIKE WHAT *GELATIN* DOES.
HOLY CRAP - SOME KINDA *MEMBRANE'S* RISING UP ALL AROUND US. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD. UNLESS...
...UNLESS IT'S TAKING US *UNDER*.

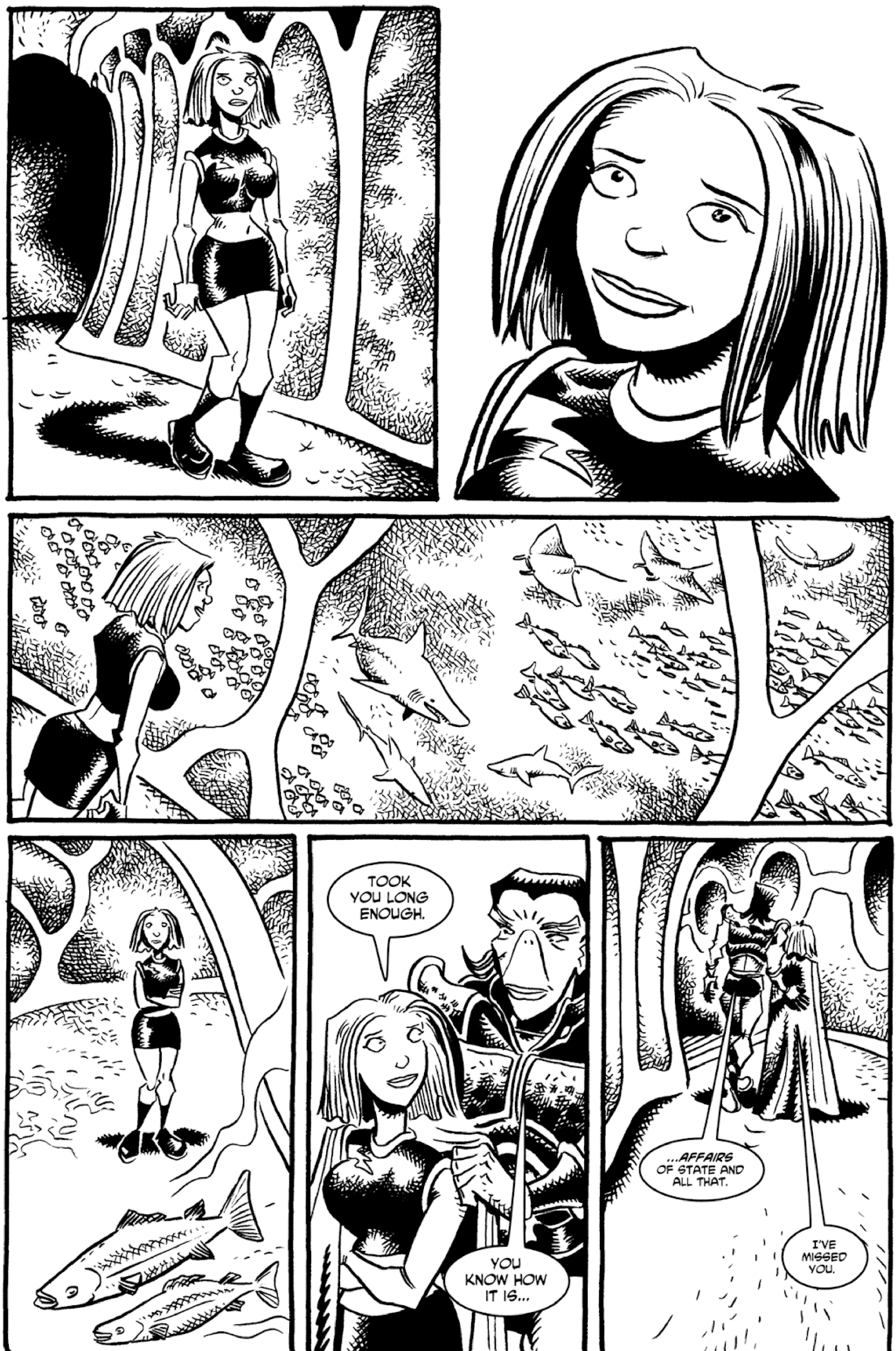
IT IS. IT HAS. WE'VE SUBMERGED. IT'S TAKING US DOWN...
...BUT TO WHERE?
AND WHY?
HEY, UM, THE WINDOW GLASS... IT'S SMOKING... I THINK IT'S STARTING TO *DISSOLVE...!*
EWWW - SOME KIND OF *WORMIE.*
IT'S SOME SORT OF... TENDRIL.
FROM THE JELLYFISH THING... OR?
THEY'RE REACHING IN...
YEAH, AND NOW THEY'RE BEGINNING TO LET OUT SOME SORT OF SMOKE.
NO, NOT SMOKE. ***GAS.*** BUT... BUT WHAT KINDA GAS...?



UGH... KNOCKOUT GAS.
UM, SPEAKING OF KNOCKOUTS... AM I DREAMING?
NOT ANY MORE.
HELLO.

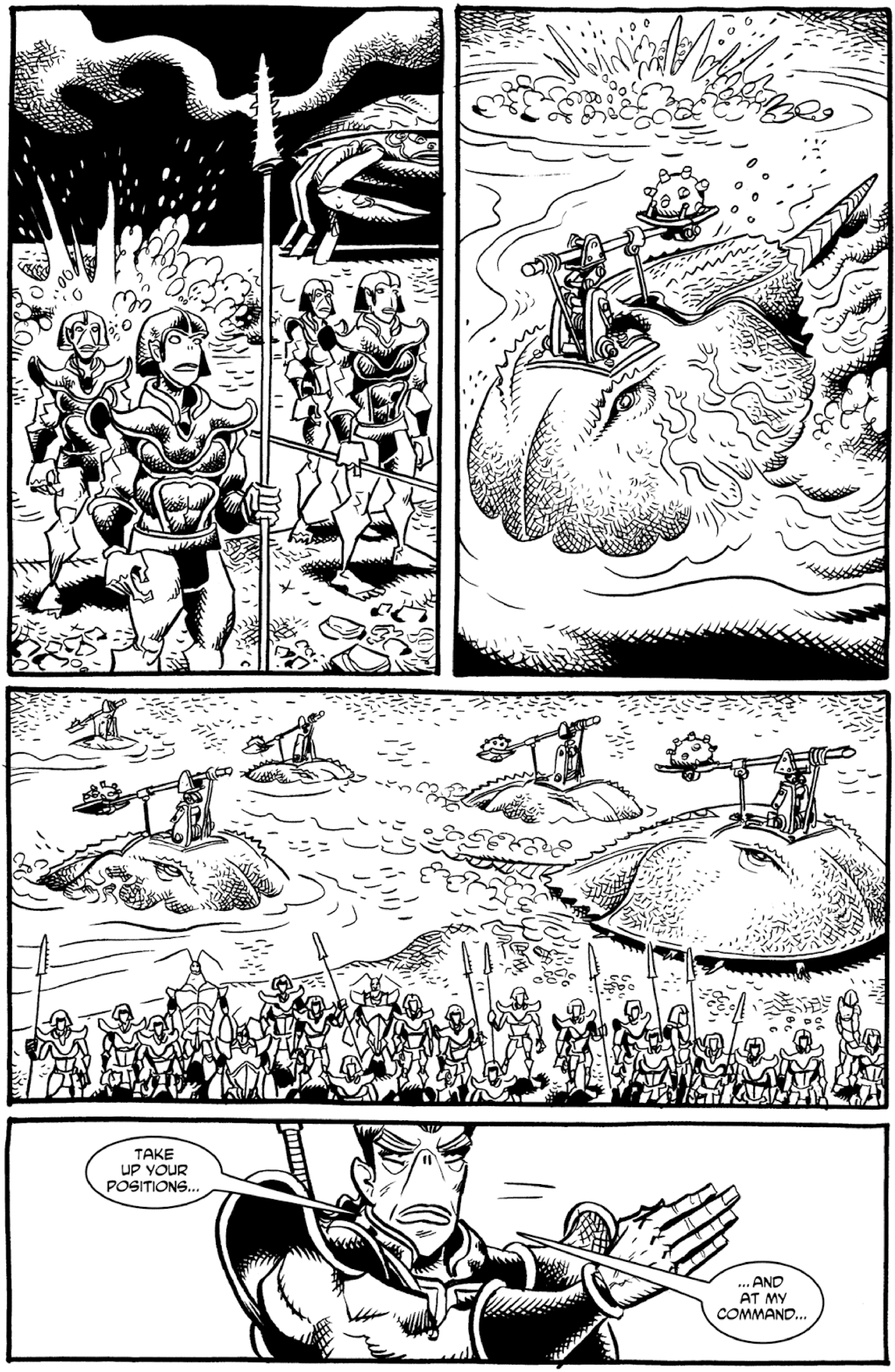
HELLO.
HEY...
OCEANA!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, *LUCREZIA.*
OCEANA! THEN THIS MEANS THAT, THAT–
WELCOME *HOME,* CHILD.
DADDY!
"DADDY?"

MAN, TALK ABOUT YER FRESH SEAFOOD.
IT PLEASES ME THAT YOU FIND THIS TO YOUR LIKING, RAPHAEL. OCEANA AND I ARE HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUESTS HERE IN ATLANTIA...
...AND I AM GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN IT UPON YOURSELF TO SEARCH FOR MY EX-WIFE, LILITH.
I WILL, OF COURSE, PLACE MY KINGDOM'S ENTIRE RESOURCES AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
COOL. BUT AS MY BROTHER LEONARDO WOULD SAY: "WE NEED A PLAN."
INDEED. TOWARDS THAT END I HAVE NOTIFIED MY INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO SEEK OUT WHATEVER INFORMATION THEY CAN.
NOT MUCH ESCAPES THEIR NOTICE. I'M SURE WE'LL RECEIVE NEWS OF LILITH AND HER PACK IN SHORT ORDER.
THANKS, DADDY.
YES, THANK YOU, LORD CHITON.
YEAH, INFORMATION... BUT INFORMATION THAT MAKES SENSE. THAT LINKS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE PACK WITH THE GIANT OWL... I GUESS. I DON'T KNOW. IT'S PRETTY CONFUSING.
THEN YOU NEED CLARITY, MY FRIEND. THE CLARITY THAT OFTEN ARISES FROM THE DISTILLED ESSENCE OF THE SEA ANEMONE.
SEA ANEMONE? UM, AREN'T THEY POISONOUS?
NO MORE SO THAN YOUR WORLD'S ABSINTH.
CHEERS.
YO.
SOON ENOUGH... WE SHALL FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE. MY SPIES ARE ALL OVER NOCTURNA.
ANOTHER SHOT?
SURE, WHY NOT?

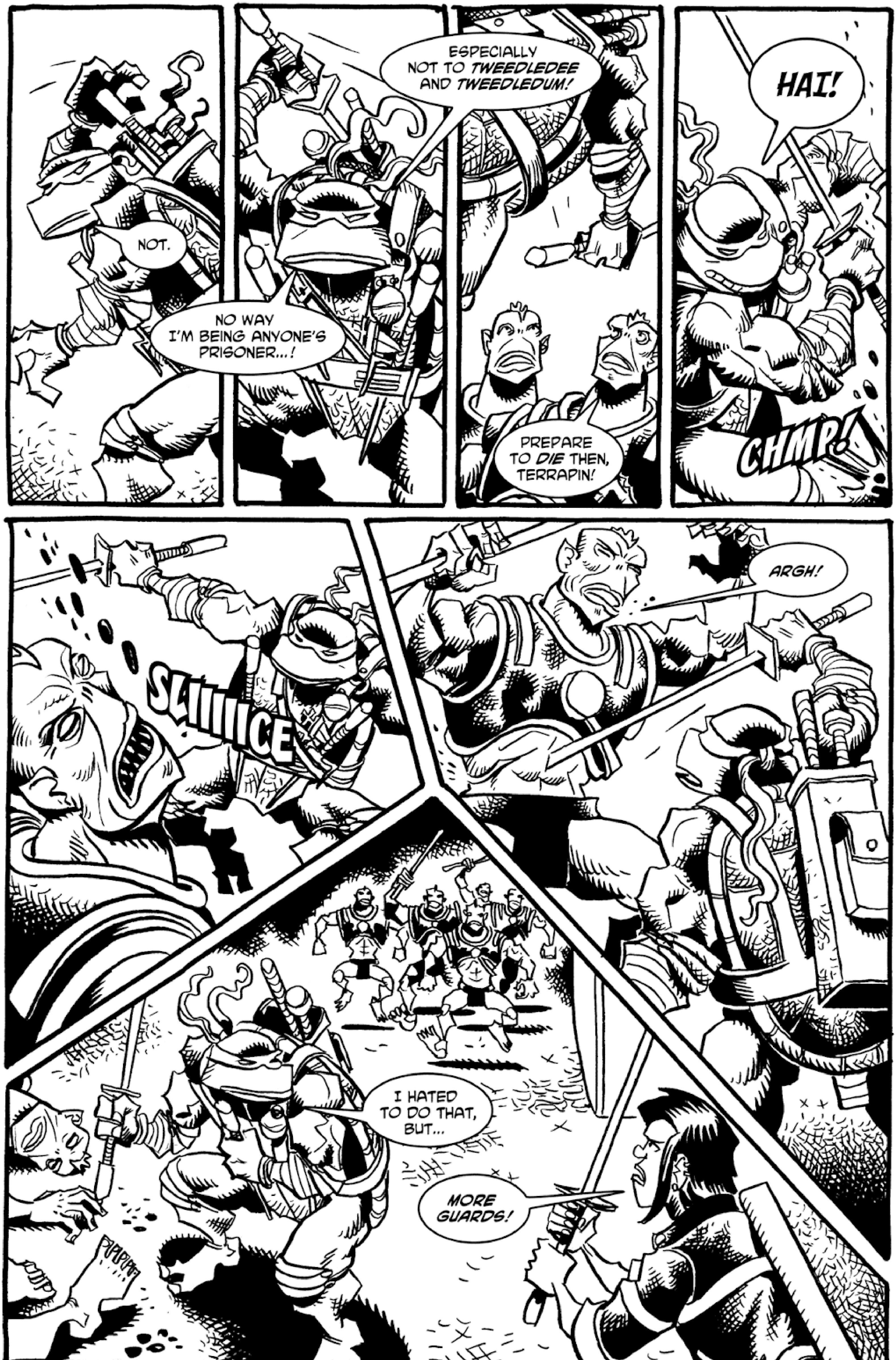

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...
...AFFAIRS OF STATE AND ALL THAT.
I'VE MISSED YOU.

WELL, THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE A DECENT DAY. NOT ONLY DID THE SEA ANEMONE WHISKEY NOT GIVE ME A HANGOVER...
...BUT CHITON'S GONE AND HAD ALL MY WEAPONS SHARPENED AND CLEANED. WHAT A DUDE.
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WOKE UP, RAPHAEL. DADDY SAYS HIS SPIES HAVE FOUND OUT WHERE MOMMY IS...!
HE'S LEADING THE ATTACK NOW!
THAT'S GREAT NEWS, KID... BUT WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO OR WHAT...
"...IS CHITON ATTACKING?"

LILITH...
BRING FORTH... *THE CRABS.*


TAKE UP YOUR POSITIONS...
...AND AT MY COMMAND...

...LET'S GO.
HALT.
YOU ARE TO STAY HERE AND PROTECT THE WOMEN.
BUT CHITON SAID THAT I'D BE FIGHTING BY HIS SIDE.
YES.
HIS BACKSIDE.
HA HA HA HA
SO THERE'S NO CHANCE WE CAN JOIN THE BATTLE?
NO. RETURN TO YOUR CHAMBERS BEFORE YOU EMBARRASS YOURSELF FURTHER.
OKAYYYY...



NOT.
NO WAY I'M BEING ANYONE'S PRISONER...!
ESPECIALLY NOT TO TWEEDLEDEE AND TWEEDLEDUM!
PREPARE TO DIE THEN, TERRAPIN!
HAI!
CHMP!
SLIIIIICE
ARGH!
I HATED TO DO THAT, BUT...
MORE GUARDS!

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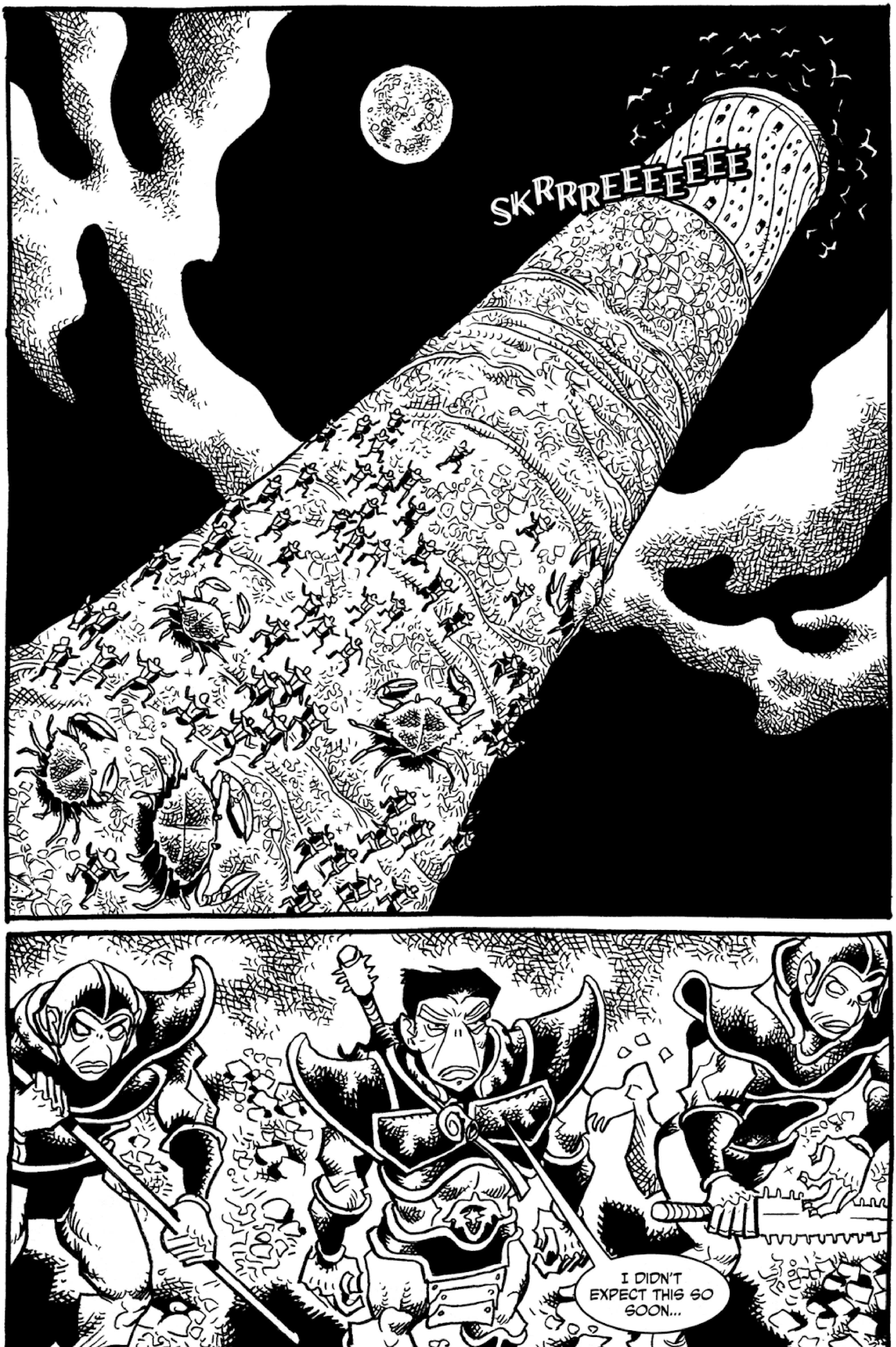
NICE MOVE, SQUIRT.
THIS IS MY FAVORITE ROOM IN THE KINGDOM. LOOK AT ALL THE BEAUTIFUL FISHES.
WE'RE GONNA BE SWIMMING WITH THE FISHES UNLESS WE DON'T GET OUT OF...
HEY. THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA.
CAN YOU CREATE SOME SORT OF BUBBLE, SOMETHING THAT WE CAN GET INSIDE OF...
SURE.
...SOMETHING THAT CAN PASS THROUGH THESE WALLS AND GET US OUT OF HERE...
I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT I'LL TRY!
PLURP!
COOL, BUT, UH, THIS BUBBLE, CAN IT WITHSTAND...

"... THE PRESSURE?"
BOOM!
BOOM!
THRUUMMM

TO THE TOWER! TO THE TOWER!
THE BATTLE GOES WELL.
AS EXPECTED.
HMMM.


SKRRREEEEEEEE
I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS SO SOON...

SKREEEEE
SKREEE
SKRREEE!!!

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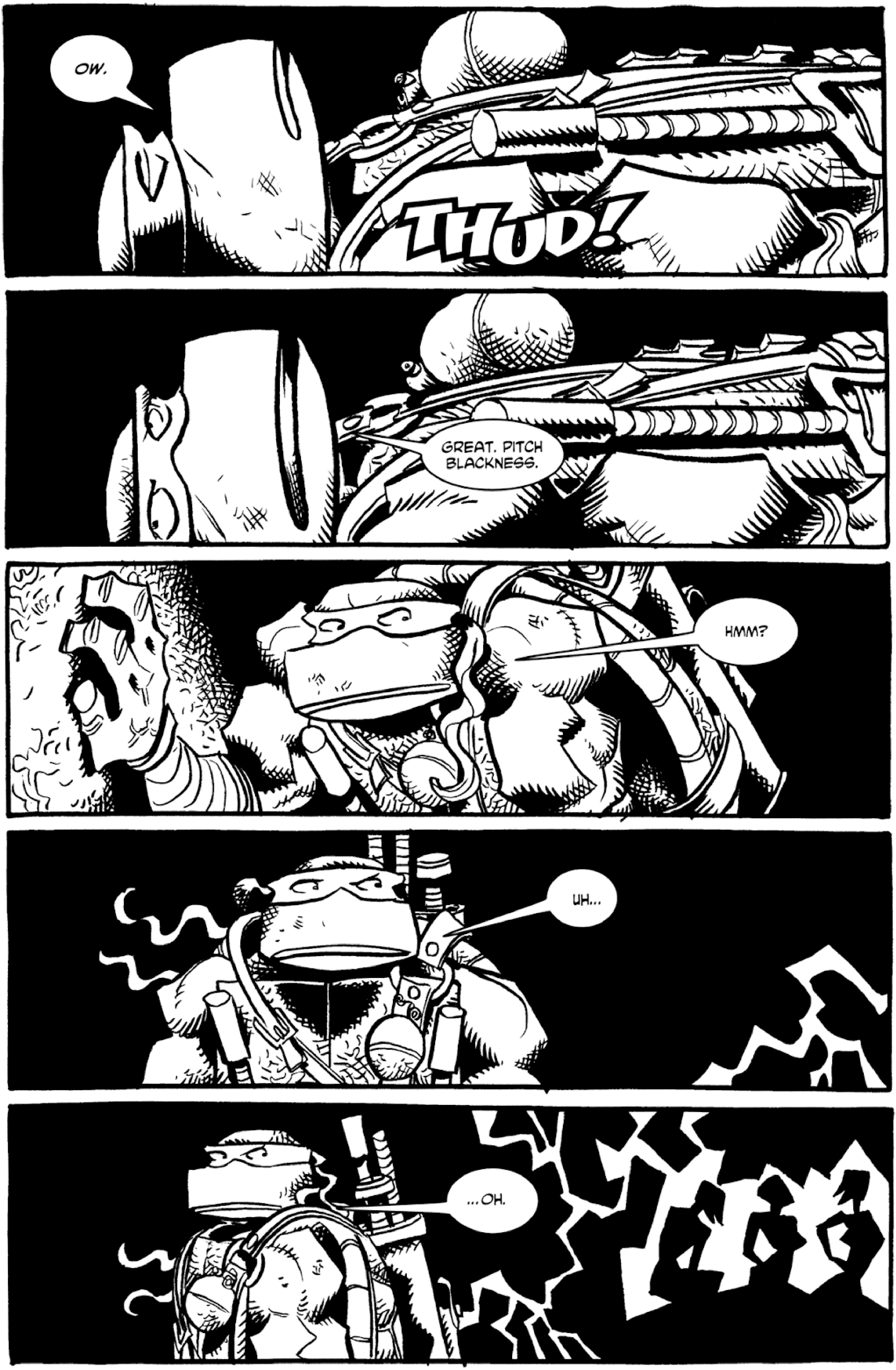
TAKE US TOWARDS THE TOP, KID...
...I'M BETTING YOUR MOM'S SOMEWHERE INSIDE.
I'LL GUIDE US THROUGH THE WINDOW...
POP!
NOW WHAT DO WE DO, RAPHAEL?
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO...
...START LOOKING FOR LILTH.
RAPHAEL!
WHAT TH-
-A TRAP DOOR!
S-L-A-M-!
DANG.


OW.
THUD!
GREAT. PITCH BLACKNESS.
HMM?
UH...
...OH.

SHADOW? SLOANE? UM... LULU?
RAPHAEL...
HEY...
YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT...
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

TO BE CONCLUDED...